

Welcome to the Gunnison Gorge NCA

The Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area is part of the 64,000-acre Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area or NCA. The BLM manages the NCA in ways that protect and improve the health of the land and provide quality recreation experiences for all users. Areas within the NCA are designated for a variety of uses including wilderness, recreation, grazing, native plant and animal habitat, landscape restoration, sensitive species and soils conservation, geologic values, and scientific research and education.

What’s an NCA?

National Conservation Areas (NCA) are Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) unique national treasures, set aside by Congress to protect, restore and conserve their wild, open character, healthy natural landscapes, native plants and animals, their scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational values for you and future visitors.

Please help protect this unique Area by showing it the respect it deserves.

The 9,700-acre Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area is managed for responsible motorized and non-motorized recreation.

The Recreation Area offers two designated “open areas” where cross-country motorcycle, ATV, and mountain bike riding is permitted. In all other NCA areas except the 17,700 Wilderness, motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated routes.

Flat Top and Peach Valley recreation sites provide access to large expanses of adobe hills and arroyos, and pinyon-juniper uplands along the NCA’s west side which offer scenic settings and 75+ miles of challenging single track and primitive dirt road trail systems for a multitude of riding adventures.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Rules to Ride By

- Cross-country motorcycle and ATV riding is only allowed in designated “open areas.” Motorized and mechanized travel in all other NCA areas is limited to designated roads and trails.
- For safety reasons, full-size vehicles (SUVs, pickups, etc.) are permitted only on county and primitive roads.
- Mud-bogging, rock crawling, and reckless riding is prohibited in all areas. Be advised that these activities, along with deliberate riding on saturated, muddy soils with the intention to create ruts, highmarks, and other visible scars, is considered resource damage and punishable by fines.
- All OHVs, including those unregistered from out-of-state, must be registered when on public lands – registrations can be obtained at any Colorado State Park, via their website (parks.state.co.us) and at most OHV dealers.
- OHV registration decals must be properly affixed to your OHV and the operator must have possession of the registration card.
- Headlights and taillights must be used when operating OHVs during nighttime hours (1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2/ hour before sunrise)
- All OHVs must have good brakes and an approved, installed spark arrestor.
- Eye protection is required for riders of motorcycles and ATVs; helmets are highly recommended.

Directions to Staging Areas

Peach Valley Recreation & Staging Area - Turn east off Hwy 50 onto Falcon Road, one mile south of Olathe. Look for Gunnison Gorge NCA Access sign. Drive 3 miles on pavement to the end of Falcon Road then continue east on the unpaved Peach Valley Road to the Gunnison Gorge NCA.

The Peach Valley Recreation site located at the NCA entrance provides picnic tables, restrooms, informational kiosks, vehicle and trailer parking, loading ramps, and OHV training and practice areas. Water is not provided.

Flat Top Recreation & Staging Area – Turn north off Hwy 50 east in Montrose onto San Juan Avenue. Turn north off San Juan Avenue onto 65.30 Road. Continue south, past the nursery and saw mill on left, then turn right onto Flat Top Road and follow it to the base of Flat Top.

For more information:
Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area
2505 S. Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
PH (970) 240-5300
FX (970) 240-5368
www.co.blm.gov/ggnca/index.htm

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00am to 4:30pm

ENJOY AND PROTECT YOUR PUBLIC LANDS



Partial funding for this brochure was provided by a grant from the Colorado State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Program.

BLM/CO/GI-07/001

FLAT TOP PEACH VALLEY RECREATION AREA

Trail System Map



Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area • COLORADO

Preserve This Place for Everyone

Public lands are our heritage, but the privilege to use them comes with an awesome responsibility to protect them for use and enjoyment by all visitors.

Most routes are two-way and open to all users except full-size vehicles. Many trails are tight, narrow and maintained to provide primitive trail experiences.

Expect and be prepared for trail hazards such as blind turns, steep hills, over-hanging branches, rocks, and deep arroyos. Horses, hikers, and bikers share the trail.



Responsible riding is required to protect sensitive soils, biological crusts, native plants, and animal habitat. Don’t ride off-trail or cut switch backs, and control your speed. Reckless riding changes the nature of your trail system and riding experiences, which could force route closures.



Respect private property and know where you are. Leave gates the way you found them and domestic animals or wildlife alone.

BLM closely monitors the area to identify potential problems. Our OHV trail crew works with local user groups to repair trail damage, address user conflicts, and educate all visitors about responsible use.

The best way to ensure your privilege to ride in the NCA and on other public land areas is by riding responsibly and showing respect to all users.

Be a RIGHT RIDER! Know how, where and when to ride on your public lands.

Know Before You Go

Below is an explanation of the types of travel restrictions you’ll encounter within the Gunnison Gorge NCA and Flat Top-Peach Valley Recreation Area. Look for these and other signs intended to notify you of changes in regulations.

Road Signs



Road Use Signs – identify “designated routes” through travel restricted areas and inform travelers of the modes of travel allowed on the route.

Area Signs



Travel Restricted Area Signs – Posted at boundaries between “Open” areas, where cross-country travel is permitted and “Limited” use areas where travel is restricted to designated routes. Signs depict which modes of travel are restricted in the area.

Trail Signs



Trail Signs – Common at trailheads and major intersections, communicate modes of travel allowed or prohibited on entire trail or sections of trail.

Be Careful Out There

The Gunnison Gorge NCA’s rugged and remote landscapes will challenge your riding abilities and be unforgiving if you don’t come prepared for your trip. Weather conditions can change quickly. Heavy summer rains make routes impassable and create dangerous flash floods in arroyos.

- Always be prepared by carrying a map, compass and/or GPS, extra water, food, first aid kit, rain gear, and warm clothing.

- Tell someone where you’re going and when you expect to return or travel with a group.

- Be prepared for changing weather.

- Wear safety gear appropriate for your sport.

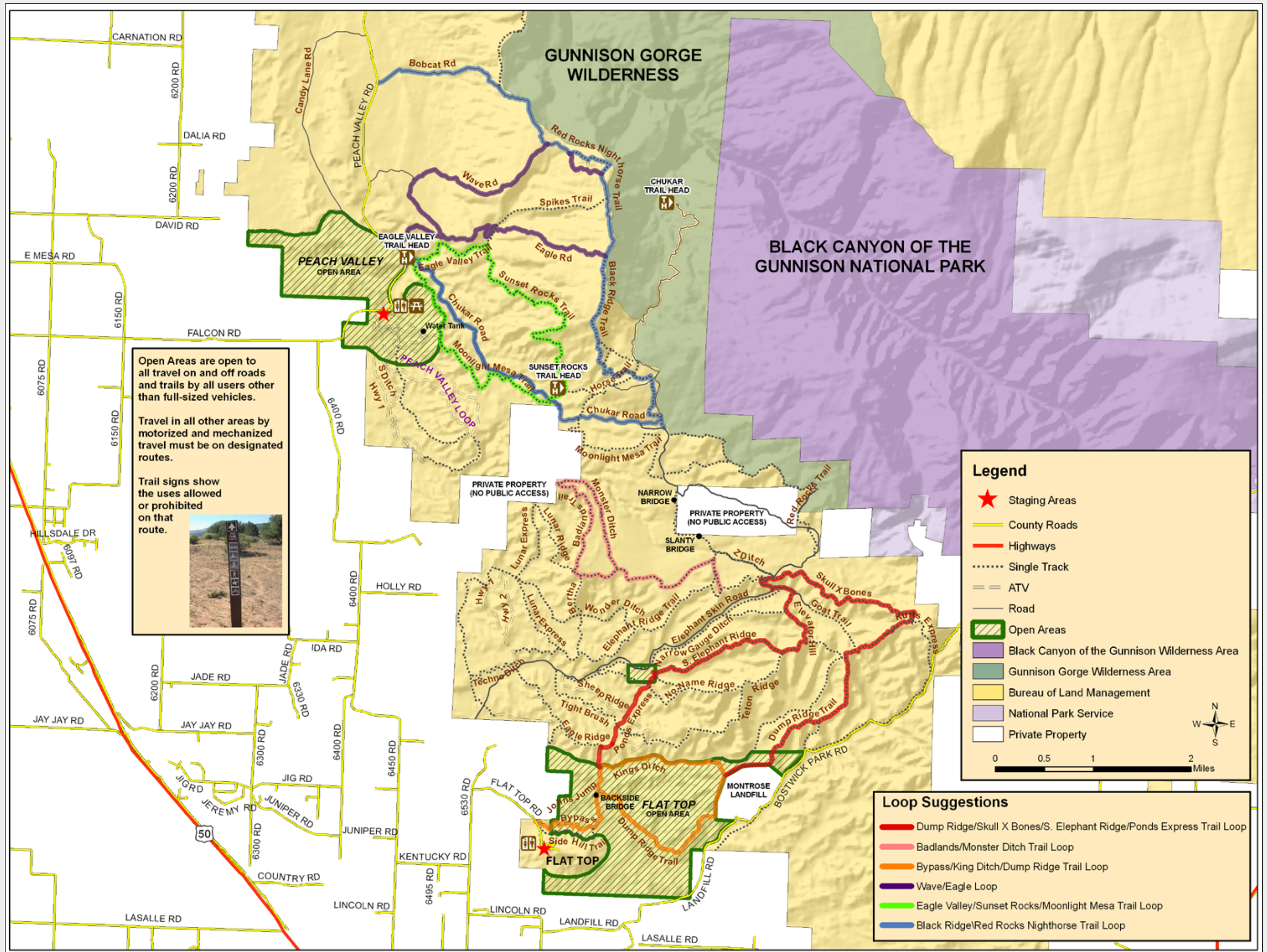
- Know your vehicle and keep it in good condition.

- Dial 911 in the event of an emergency but don’t count on cell phone coverage for emergencies or local information in all places. Have a back up plan!

- For non-emergency situations requiring law enforcement, contact the sheriff’s office or BLM.

Montrose County	(970) 240-6606
Delta County	(970) 874-2000
BLM Ranger	(970) 240-5330





Peach Valley

Black Ridge/Red Rocks Nighthorse Trail Loop (~11 miles) is for advanced riders who like steep hills and rocky terrain. This trail has large ledge step-ups and step-offs. It is challenging and provides riders with scenic views. It travels along the rim of the Gunnison Gorge from Chukar Road to Bobcat Road. It can be ridden out and back or it can be looped with Peach Valley Road.

Eagle Valley/Sunset Rocks/Moonlight Mesa Trails (~7 miles) are very challenging single track trails for advanced riders only. These trails include tight canyon walls, steep hills and rocky terrain. Access starts at the Peach Valley Recreation Area. Follow the signs to Eagle Valley Trail. Eagle Valley travels through a small canyon. After you climb out of the canyon, turn right and head south on Sunset Rocks Trail. Before you get to Chukar Road follow the signs to Moonlight Mesa Trail and head back to the staging area.

Wave/Eagle Loop (~7 miles) is an intermediate ride on 4WD roads. It is very popular with local ATV riders and 4WD vehicles. This loop includes moderate hills with very rocky terrain. Access starts off Peach Valley Road. The trail is easier if traveled counterclockwise starting on Wave road.

Flat Top

Bypass/King Ditch/Dump Ridge Rail Loop (~7 miles) is a good beginner/intermediate trail that travels through a narrow ditch. King Ditch is a very popular route for motorcycles and mountain bikes because of the tight turns and blind corners. There are multiple trails that lead you to King Ditch which have some hills and small whoops. Access starts at the Flat Top Staging Area. King Ditch is the first ditch after you cross Backside Bridge.

Badlands/Monster Ditch Trail Loop (~5 miles) is a great ride for intermediate to advanced riders. This ditch has some very tight, narrow turns, as well as some deep canyon walls where you can make some high banking turns. There is a steep climb when you exit the ditch. Access starts off the Badlands Trail. Multiple trails lead you to Badlands Trail. You will encounter trails with moderate to big whoops and moderate to steep hills.

Dump Ridge/Skull & Crossbones/S. Elephant Ridge/Ponds Express Trails (~11 miles) make a good challenging loop for intermediate riders. Dump Ridge starts at Backside Bridge and has steep hills and large whoops. Skull & Crossbones is a technical single track with rocks. S. Elephant Ridge has steep hills and small whoops with scenic views of the Adobes. Ponds Express starts at Lower Ponds and returns you to Backside Bridge.

Routes that connect the Flat Top Staging Area to the Peach Valley Recreation Area

Beginner to intermediate riding: Ponds Express to Lower Ponds to Badlands Trail to Slanty Bridge Trail to Moonlight Mesa Trail.

Intermediate and advanced riding: King Ditch to Dump Ridge Trail to Skull & Crossbones Trail to Donkey Trail to Red Rocks Trail to Moonlight Mesa Trail.



Geologic formation called "Flat Top"

Want to Learn to Ride Right?

Through a partnership with Colorado State Parks, two members of the BLM Uncompahgre OHV Trail Crew are certified to provide training in motorcycle and ATV riding here at Peach Valley. Call us at (970) 240-5300 for more information!

Thanks to State Parks & Our Partners!

We could not provide this great area to ride without the help of the Colorado State Parks and your support through the purchase of OHV registrations. Special thanks to local OHV, mountain bike, hiking, and equestrian groups for pitching in to help us protect and maintain this special area.

